

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

107 SOUTH BROADWAY, ROOM 7011
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(213) 620-2380

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Venus Laboratories Inc.
18903 S. Main Street
Carson, CA 90745

May 1985

Preparer: Linda D. Hogg/Sylvia Marson
Toxic Substances Control Division
Southern California Section
(213) 620-2380

History and Problem:

Venus Laboratories, Inc. is a formulator and blender of commercial cleaning products such as bowl cleaner, floor cleaner, drain opener, etc. They were in operation at this site from 1976-1980. Raw materials are received in bulk and are blended together in either mixing tanks or directly in the 55 gallon drums used to ship products. The only wastes produced, according to a company official, was wash water from rinsing which was collected in a sump. There is a question as to whether the sump, or pit, was lined. The past operator said yes, the current operator (Sims Welding) and inspectors from Los Angeles County Health Department (LACH) say no.

A complaint inspection by LACH in November 1979 revealed an unpaved, contaminated yard where chemicals had been dumped onto the ground and into a sump. There were also some CAL/OSHA violations. The company was ordered to discontinue dumping, to clean up the yard, and to comply with OSHA regulations. Subsequent inspections in early 1980 found the company in compliance. Venus Labs moved in 1980 to their present location at 15571 Commerce Lane, Huntington Beach, 92649. When Sims Welding moved onto the site in 1981, they found an unlined dirt pit with soil appearing to be wet and several 55 gallon drums. They had the pit backhoed and the soil spread out on the property where it finally dried. Venus Labs retrieved all their drums. Sims Welding had the lot paved. They are a distributor of welding supplies and have no waste products. There is discrepancy between the Industrial Waste Survey completed in 1980 by Venus and the one completed in 1985. The 1980 survey listed over 20 wastes, and stated that wastes were deposited into ponds and pits. There are no wastes listed on the 1985 survey and in a phone conversation with the current owner, it was stated that only waste water

was placed in a concrete sump. The owner stated that a clerk filled out the first survey unknowingly.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends active status, low priority. There is documented evidence of onsite disposal of wastes, but it is uncertain if the wastes were hazardous and if the sump was lined. The site has been distributed and is now paved over, but the contaminated soil appears to have not been removed.

A copy of this report will be sent to Orange County Environmental Health for possible generator inspection of the new site. The old site should be considered for CERCLA action.

LDH:SM:mf

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

Region 9

Preparer's Name Linda D. Hogg/Sylvia MarsonDate May 1985

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
1. Site Number		None
2. Site Name	Industrial Waste Survey Questionnaire # 12580 04-04-80	Venus Laboratories Inc.
3. Site Location	See 32	18903 S. Main Street Carson, CA 90745
4. County	See #2	Los Angeles
5. Owner	Los Angeles Tax Assessor	Present: James R. Marshall & M. Kelly Sims 18903 Main Gardena, CA 90248 (213) 327-6650
	Industrial Waste Disposal Site Survey 1985	Past: Mr. E. Van Vlahakis 18903 S. Main Street Carson, CA 90745
6. Operator	Industrial Waste Disposal Site Survey 4-29-85	Present: Sims Welding Supply Co., Inc. 18903 Main Street Carson, CA 90745
	See # 5 (b)	Venus Laboratories (same address)
7. Type of Ownership	See #5	Private
8. Status	See #5	Active

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

Region 9

Preparer's Name Linda D. Hogg/Sylvia MarsonDate May 1985continued

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
9. Source of Activity	See #6	Present: distributor of welding supplies Past: blending of cleaning products
10. Years of Operation	See #6	Venus Lab 1976-1980 Sims Welding 1981 - present
11. Facility Type	Letter 11-29-79 R.L. Dennerline and phone memo E. Van Vlahakis 05-21-85	(1) dirt sump (2) concrete pits
12. Waste Type	Phone memo 05-21-85 E. Van Vlahakis ----- See #2	wash water ----- acid and alkaline sludge solutions tank bottom sediment caustic chlorinated hydrocarbons contaminated soil oily emulsion spent caustic soap waste wastewater

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13. Contacts:

James Marshall	Sims Welding	(213) 327-6650
Mrs. Wade	CAL/OSHA	(213) 736-3041
Mr. E. Van Vlahakis	Venus Labs	(213) 7704900

14. Incidents:

None documented at S. Main Street

12-08-80 Acid spill, Huntington Beach, checked by CLA/OSHA

15. Inspections:

11-21-79	Los Angeles County Health (LACH), found numerous problems ordered to clean up.
12-13-79	LACH, follow-up to NOV, partial clean up complete.
01-08-80	LACH, no more dumping of chemicals, only 2 items to be fixed.
08-24-82	Dept. of Health Services drive-by, no find Venus, new company Sims Welding

16. Enforcement History:

11-29-79	LACH, letter directing Venus to clean up site and discontinue disposal practices.
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17. Initial Recommendation:

Staff recommends active status low priority. There is documented evidence of onsite disposal of wastes, although it is unknown if it is hazardous. There are conflicting reports on the sump and its contents. Both the past and current site will be referred to Los Angeles County Environmental Health Department and Orange County Environmental Health.

AGENCY CONTACT RECORD

Venus Laboratories

Agency	Contact	Date	Response
LACE	file search	10-9-84 S.M.	no info found
L.A. County Health	file search	9-24-84 S.M.	small file; problems
RWQCB	file search	10-3-84 S.M.	no info found
Sanitation District	file search	10-11-84 S.M.	no info found
DOHS	file search	4-19-85 L.H.	no info found
Tap assessor	file search	4-8-85 L.H.	# 7339-014-013